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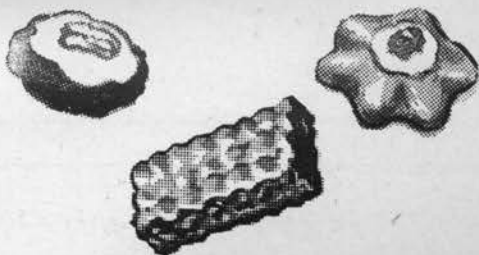
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Alum Serves 10,000 Women Every Year

by Sally Young

Applied Art Sophomore

THEY SAY the cobblers' children have no shoes, but you can be sure that Mrs. Edith Davison, '22, food manager of the Des Moines Women's Club, doesn't neglect her family.

It's more fun to work together than play together said the Iowa State alumna about her busy family. Her family comes first — her husband, her son and her daughter, Ruth Davison, H. Ec. Jr.

Manages meals for 500

Mrs. Davison plans and manages meals for about 500 women a week. From hiring the kitchen help to paying the bills, she's not only a scientific home economist, but a homemaker as well. She works from her bright cheery kitchen and plans for the weekly meetings of the Des Moines Women's Club besides the regular meetings of other organizations. Averaging approximately 24 lunches a year for 10,000 women, Mrs. Davison reaches the peak of her schedule at the Women's Club May Day party. About 750 people attend this May event.

For small parties, she bakes cakes and cookies in her own kitchen, but for large groups, she hires, directs and pays a staff of waitresses and kitchen help. This successful food manager always sees that there are no left-overs. You have to be a good mathematician in this business, she said.

Organizes homemakers

An organizer as well as a good cook, Mrs. Davison was second president of the Des Moines Home Economics Club. She helped organize both homemakers and professional women into one club. Now she is correspondent for the State Home Economics Council, a larger part of the American Home Economics Association.

After graduating from Iowa State, Mrs. Davison taught home economics for five years. Recently she began teaching again and last fall she conducted adult education classes in Christmas cookery.

"It was fun, but hard," she explained, "since you



At the Daven Haven Cabin party Mrs. Edith Davison and her daughter, Ruth, H. Ec Jr., frost a cake baked in a wood stove.

have to carry your equipment around with you just as a demonstrator does." At one time she taught regular adult education classes at the Women's Club, but now her busy schedule doesn't allow it.

Summers don't find Mrs. Davison idle. For three years she has been food director at Daven Haven Lodge, Grand Lake, Colo. She spends her summers delighting tourists with tasty dishes. *Better Homes and Gardens* featured Daven Haven in one of their articles on "Famous Foods from Famous Places." Mrs. Davison's recipe for spoon bread and several other specialties were printed.

She also received recognition in the food field in the March 4, 1951, issue of *This Week Magazine*. Clementine Paddleford in her column, "Cooking across the Country" wrote up the Davisons' kitchen and cook.

Looking back

Looking back on her years at Iowa State, Mrs. Davison was glad that she took the courses she did. "Experimental cookery was the most interesting," she said. "The need for accuracy that I learned there helps me every day." A member of Omicron Nu, home economics scholastic honorary, and Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary, Mrs. Davison did graduate work in foods for three summers after receiving her B.S. degree.

A hint of Mrs. Davison's foresightedness was revealed in one of her college memories. She said that while she was at Iowa State, she wrote a paper on packaging and delivering prepared foods for people who live in apartment houses. Unheard of then, she explained, such deliveries are certainly common now with a large number of restaurants delivering chicken in the basket and other ready-to-serve meals.

Talking about her busy life, Mrs. Davison said, "At Iowa State you are busy all the time, you are taught to be busy and you don't stop when you graduate. Most home economists are active in community life; we are taught to be."

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